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NOTE VERBALE DATED 26 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to request that the letter from H.E. Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, dated 17 June 1996 regarding the peace process in Angola, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex

Letter dated 17 June 1996 from the President of the Republic of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

Within the framework of the efforts made by the Government of Angola with the aim of carrying out to a good end the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol within reasonable deadlines and those established by the Security Council, we have tried first and foremost to cooperate with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) in the execution of the tasks attributed to the Government, while at the same time, we have carried out a number of actions in the political and diplomatic fields, with the cooperation of the international community, intended to keep the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) seriously and responsibly involved in the process.

I would like to acknowledge here the useful role played by you and the Security Council in the Angolan peace process, which has enabled it to reach the point at which it presently finds itself, even with the slow pace at which it is being carried out.

The intense pressure applied on UNITA made it fulfil its obligations in relation to the quartering of its troops, which is, as you know, the fundamental step to the pacification of Angola.

However, this task will not be concluded within the deadlines established by the Security Council in its resolution 1055 (1996) and that is why it is important to make UNITA understand that the non-fulfilment of its obligation is cause for concern and will lead to a strong reaction from the international community demanding that its decisions be fully respected.

Owing to this fact and taking into account that UNITA, although it now has a more acceptable posture, still seems not to be convinced, despite its promises, that it has to quarter its 62,000 troops by the end of June as guaranteed, we believe it is vital to maintain sufficient pressure on UNITA so as to fulfil without any delay the above-mentioned fundamental objective of the Angolan peace process.

With this objective, I would like to ask you to send to Angola a Security Council mission, by the end of the current month, with the aim of evaluating the process and leaving UNITA with recommendations that advise it against taking any actions that may lead to new delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and that may provoke disturbances for the UNAVEM III peace mission.

(Signed) José Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola